

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 are pending herein, claims 1, 9, 11, 18, 19 and 25 now being independent. By the amendment above, claims 1, 8-11, 18, 19 and 25 are amended, and claims 5-7, 26-28 and 31-36 are canceled. New claim 37 dependent on claim 19 as been added. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 7, together with the intervening limitations of original claims 5 and 6 (from which claim 7 depended), so that amended claim 1 contains all of the limitations of claim 7 as filed. Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 28, together with the intervening limitations of original claims 26 and 27 (from which claim 28 depended), so that amended claim 25 contains all of the limitations of claim 28 as filed. Claims 9, 11, 18 and 19 have been re-written in independent form.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enabling requirement. Specifically, the Examiner took the position that claims 19-24 included the limitation of a centering sleeve member which comprises an alternate means for limiting the depth to which a drill bit may penetrate a surface. Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 19 adds the limitation of a centering mechanism, which does not affect the depth of penetration of a drill bit with which the inventive stop is used. The two functions -- centering and limiting the depth to which the drill bit may penetrate -- are independent, and are not alternate embodiments of the same function. To remove any potential for ambiguity, however, claim 19 has been amended to also include the limitation that the shoulder which limits the depth of penetration may be mounted on either the centering member or the second sleeve. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection

be withdrawn.

The Examiner went on to reject claim 1-3, 13, 14, 16, 17, 25, 31, 32, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by United States Patent No. 2,794,353 (Bashlow, *et al.*); claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 25-27, 29, 31, 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,543,971 (Mahwhinney); and claims 4, 30 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bashlow, *et al.*, in view of United States Patent No. 4,705,436 (Robertson). The Examiner indicated that claims 7, 9, 11, 12, 18 and 28 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include all of the limitations of the independent claim from which they each depend, together with any intervening dependent claims.

By the amendment above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of (allowable) claim 7, together with the limitations of intervening dependent claims 5 and 6 from which original claim 7 depended. Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of (allowable) claim 28, together with the limitations of intervening dependent claims 26 and 27 from which original claim 28 depended. Claims 9, 11, 12 and 18 have been re-written in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of these claims are allowable. The other remaining claims depend from an allowable independent claim, and so are likewise allowable.

Applicant has added a new claim 37, dependent from (allowable) claim 19, adding a further refinement of the embodiment claimed therein. Since it depends from an allowable claim, it is believed that this claim, likewise, is allowable.

There being no further grounds for objection or rejection, therefore, early and

favorable action is respectfully solicited.

A check in the amount \$300 is enclosed in payment for the addition of 2 new independent claims in excess of three.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the present application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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